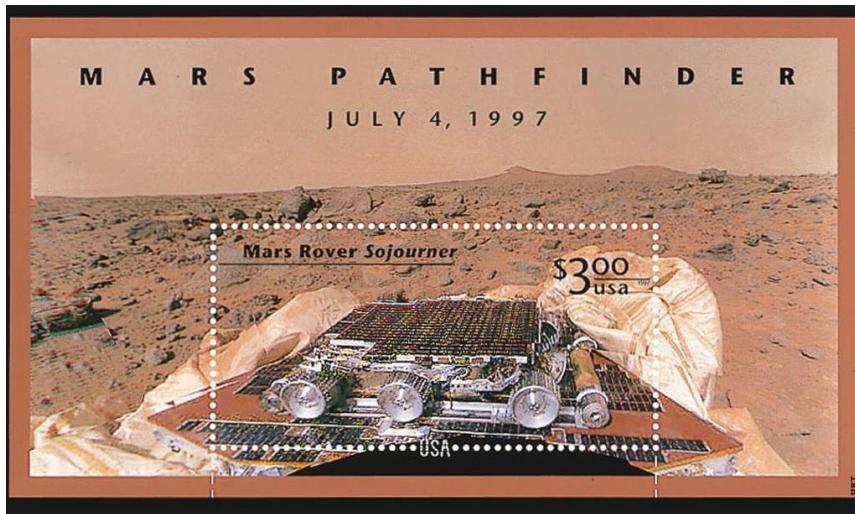


Mars Pathfinder - Mars Rover Sojourner - First Day Cover
Scott Catalog #3178 Issued Dec. 10, 1997 in Pasadena, CA



In January 1995, the United States Postal Service and NASA initiated a year-long worldwide contest for students ages 5 to 18 to select a name for the rover that was being sent to travel on Mars. The students were asked to select a heroine and submit an essay about her historical accomplishments and how those accomplishments would relate to the rover's accomplishments on Mars. Valerie Ambroise, age 12 from Bridgeport, CT submitted the winning essay about **Sojourner Truth**. Valerie suggested Truth because of all her accomplishments. *"She had made it her mission to travel up and down the land advocating the rights of all people to be free and rights of women to participate fully in society."* The name Sojourner was selected because it means "traveler." The 9th stamp in the Black Heritage series honoring **Sojourner Truth** was issued on February 4, 1986.

The official First Day Ceremony for the \$3 Priority Mail stamp commemorating the historic Mars Pathfinder mission was held on December 10, 1997 at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.